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these Societies alone have not the right to close that passage. With the view, however, of promoting this desirable object, they recommend to the Society the following vote: —

Voted, That the Historical Society recommend to the proprietors of real estate in Franklin Place to cause the passage under the Arch to be rendered impassable for carriages, and authorize them, so far as it may legally do, to take any measures which they shall deem expedient for this purpose, not occasioning any expense to the Society.

The Cabinet-Keeper and Librarian were appointed a committee to make such alterations in the entrance to the Society's room as may avoid the present nuisance.

Mr. QUINCY reported that he had made application for a surplus copy of Wait's Collection of State Papers, and that there were no more copies on hand than were wanted for the use of the Legislature.

William Winthrop, Esq., Nathan Hale, Esq., and Rev. Samuel Ripley were nominated as Resident Members by the Standing Committee, and Gulian C. Verplanck, Esq., of New York, as a Corresponding Member, by Mr. Shaw.

QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1820.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Jan. 27, 1820, — the members present were, Bartlett, Bradford, Dexter, Davis, Freeman, Holmes, Lowell, Nichols, Pickering, Pierce, Quincy, Saltonstall, Savage, Shaw, Tudor, Winthrop, and Winthrop.

The Committee on the subject of the alteration of the entrance to the Society's room, reported that it was inexpedient to do any thing till the spring.

Mr. WEBSTER and Mr. GAMALIEL BRADFORD were appointed a committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

WILLIAM WINTHROP, Esq., NATHAN HALE, and Rev. SAMUEL RIPLEY, were chosen Resident Members, and GULIAN C. VERPLANCK, Esq., of New York, a Corresponding Member, of the Society.

The additional letters found by Mr. Secretary Bradford among the papers of Governor Hutchinson, and presented to the Society by the permission of the Governor and Council, were referred to the Publishing Committee;* as were a letter from Mr. Farmer relating to the churches in New Hampshire, a biographical memoir of Miles Standish by Mr. Bradford, and a MS. letter of Dr. Watts.†

Voted, That the subject of the publication of Winthrop's Journal and the Indian Dictionary be referred to the Publishing Committee.‡

Voted, That the Publishing Committee be requested to procure a memoir of the late Dr. Bentley, a member of this Society.

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* The following letter (filed as "27 Jan., 1820") came with the papers referred to in the text: —

"JANUARY 27th.

"DEAR SIR, — I send some very old letters and papers, selected from the files, left by Governor Hutchinson, with a list of them.

"Some of them have been printed in Hazard, and some in Hutchinson; but many of them were never printed, and are valuable.

"I have obtained leave of the Council to present them to the Historical Society. They are no part of the files of the Secretary's office.

"Yours, A. BRADFORD.

"Rev. Dr. HOLMES,
Corresponding Secretary of Historical Society." EDS.

† The several articles here referred to were printed in 2 Collections, Vol. X. The publication of the Hutchinson Papers was continued in 3 Collections, Vol. I. — EDS.

‡ The "Indian Dictionary" was probably the "Vocabulary of the Massachusetts (or Natick) Indian Language. By Josiah Cotton." Published in 3 Collections, II. 147-243; edited by John Pickering. — EDS.

On application of Z. G. Whitman, Esq., for the loan of certain books from the Library,

Voted, That the Librarian be authorized to loan the books, not more than two or three at a time, under the usual restrictions, taking a receipt for the same, and charging them to himself.

Mr. SAVAGE was appointed, in conjunction with the President, a committee to procure the Hutchinson papers from Elisha Hutchinson, Esq., of Great Britain.*

Voted, That the Standing Committee be requested to examine the laws relating to the Library, and report what alterations, if any, it is expedient to make in them.

Voted, That the Librarian, under the direction of the Standing Committee, be authorized to procure the binding of such volumes as have been selected for this purpose by a committee.

Alden Bradford, Esq., communicated his resignation

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*. The Society passed a vote more than a year ago (see p. 277), desiring the President to make application to Elisha Hutchinson, Esq., of Birmingham, and other descendants and representatives of the family of Governor Hutchinson, to obtain the continuation of the Governor's "History of Massachusetts Bay," which, it was understood, he had left in manuscript at his decease. Mr. Savage was now joined with the President, and letters were written, agreeably to the above vote. Elisha Hutchinson was one of two sons of Governor Hutchinson, — Thomas, the elder, having died at Heavitree, near Exeter, in 1811, at the age of seventy-one.

The application was at first unsuccessful, and the correspondence, which had been considerable, and with different members of the Hutchinson family, was suspended in 1823. Elisha Hutchinson died at Blurton Parsonage, Trenton, Staffordshire, in 1824, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. In 1826, the correspondence was revived by Mr. Savage, and terms of publication were finally agreed upon, and the work was published in 1828 by John Murray, in London, edited by the Rev. John Hutchinson, M.A., of Blurton Parsonage, a son of Elisha. Five hundred copies were printed for the American market, with a title-page as Vol. III. of "Hutchinson's History of the Province of Massachusetts Bay"; and the same number, designed for the London trade, was published as an independent work, with a full and interesting preface, wanting in the other copies. For a more full account of this chapter in bibliography, see the preface to the volume referred to, and the Proceedings of the Society for February, 1857, pp. 144–146. There will be found in the records, as we proceed, frequent references to the subject of the Hutchinson manuscript. — EDS.

of his place in the Society. On accepting his resignation, it was

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. Bradford for his useful services as a member, and that he still be allowed the use of the Library on the same terms with the Resident Members.*

The President, Dr. HOLMES, Dr. FREEMAN, Mr. GRAY, and Mr. T. L. WINTHROP were appointed a committee to consider what measures, if any, shall be adopted by this Society in regard to the commemoration, on the 22d December next, of the landing of the Forefathers at Plymouth, and report at the next meeting.

Professor Edward Everett and James C. Merrill, Esq., were nominated Resident Members by the Committee, and Elisha Hutchinson, Esq., a Corresponding Member, by Dr. Freeman.†

Meeting dissolved.

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* On communicating his resignation to the Society, Mr. Bradford concluded his letter, dated Jan. 25, 1820, as follows: —

"I send some more old papers selected from Hutchinson's files, some of which have not been published, and most of which are of an early date, and valuable for the purposes of the Society. Any thing that I may collect in future, worthy of being preserved, I shall cheerfully transmit."

† The Hon. Caleb Strong, chosen a member in July, 1800, died Nov. 7, 1819. A memoir by Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge will be found in this volume on pp. 290–316.

Eben. Parsons, chosen a member in January, 1797, died Nov. 27, 1819. A memoir of him by the Rev. S. K. Lothrop will be found on pp. 317–320 of this volume.

The Rev. William Bentley, chosen a member in March, 1796, died Dec. 29, 1819. A memoir of him by Mr. C. C. Smith will be found on pp. 320–323 of this volume. — EDS.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1820.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, April 27, 1820, —

HON. JOHN DAVIS	was chosen	PRESIDENT.
CHARLES LOWELL	„	RECORDING SECRETARY.
ABIEL HOLMES, D.D.	„	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
JAMES SAVAGE, ESQ.	„	TREASURER.
MR. NATHANIEL G. SNELLING	„	LIBRARIAN.
REDFORD WEBSTER, ESQ. . .	„	CABINET-KEEPER.
HON. JAMES WINTHROP JAMES FREEMAN, D.D. THOMAS L. WINTHROP, ESQ. REV. JOHN PIERCE WILLIAM TUDOR, ESQ.	were chosen	STANDING COMMITTEE.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to the Hon. Mr. Quincy, who has resigned the office of Treasurer, for his long and faithful service in that office.

Professor EDWARD EVERETT and JAMES C. MERRILL, Esq., were elected Resident Members, and ELISHA HUTCHINSON, Esq., of Great Britain, a Corresponding Member, of the Society.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to consider and report what measures, if any, shall be adopted by the Society in regard to the centenary celebration, on the 22d of December next, of the landing of the Fathers at Plymouth, reported: —

That having considered the subject referred to them, they have thought it advisable to recommend to the Society to appoint a committee of their body to attend the proposed celebration at Plymouth as their representatives on that interesting occasion; that the chairman of that committee

be requested to express, on that day, to the Pilgrim Society, who are expected to take the lead in the celebration, the congratulations of the Society, and the cordial interest which is ever felt and cherished by all its members in every proceeding intended to honor the memory of our venerable ancestors; that it be recommended to the members of the Society to attend at Plymouth on that occasion; and that a copy of the resolutions which may be adopted by the Society in relation to this subject be communicated by the Corresponding Secretary to the President of the Pilgrim Society.

The report was accepted, and Judge DAVIS, Dr. HOLMES, Mr. LOWELL, Mr. PIERCE, and Mr. GRAY were appointed a committee for the purpose therein stated.

The additional Hutchinson papers presented by Mr. Secretary Bradford were referred to the Publishing Committee.

Robert Walsh, Esq., of Philadelphia, and John Van Ness Yates, Esq., of New York, were nominated by Mr. Shaw as Corresponding Members of the Society.*

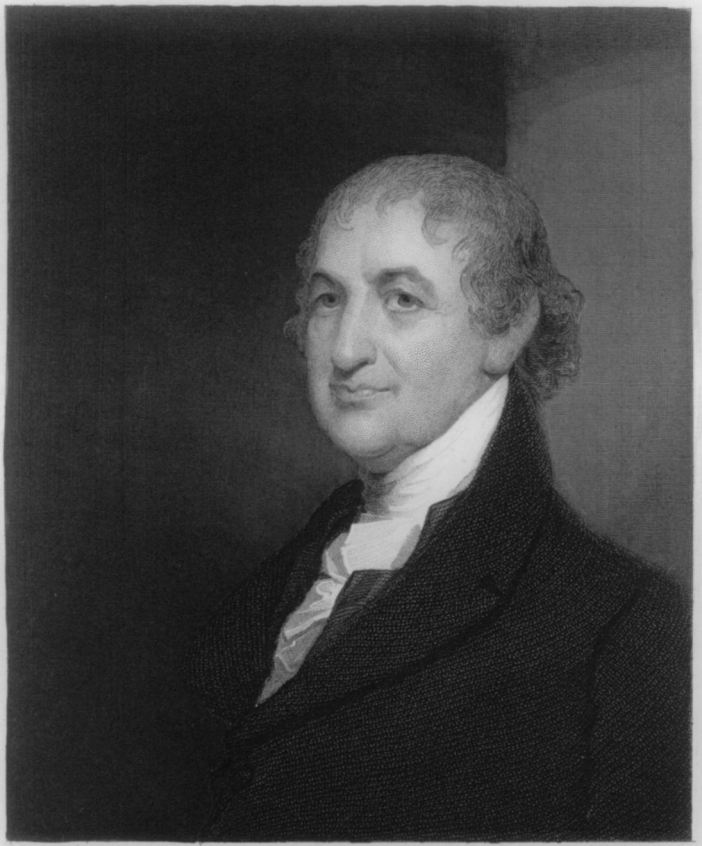
Meeting dissolved.

[Five Resident Members died during the past year: viz., William Tudor, Caleb Strong, Eben. Parsons, William Bentley, and Josiah Bartlett. The memoir of Mr. Tudor only has appeared in the Collections. Memoirs or notices of the others here follow. — EDS.]

* Dr. Josiah Bartlett, of Charlestown, who was chosen a member in April, 1798, died March 3, 1820. A memoir of him by the Hon. Richard Frothingham will be found in this volume on pp. 323–330. — EDS.

Memoir of Hon. Caleb Strong, LL.D.

The great emigration of Puritan Englishmen began in 1630, when Charles I. resolved to govern without a Parliament, and when certain of his subjects determined to carry to the New World the political liberty and the religious faith which were in peril in the Old. Among the emigrants from England, in 1630, was John Strong, of Somersetshire, a typical representative of that vigorous middle class in which Puritanism found its strength. John Strong was only twenty-five years old when he left England, taking with him his young wife and their infant child. He had scarcely reached America, when death deprived him of both wife and child, and he found himself alone. Such a bereavement must have been a severe trial at the very beginning of a new career, but the sturdy young Puritan faced his troubles manfully. Before 1630 had expired, he consoled himself by a second marriage, taking to wife Abigail Ford, of Dorchester, where he first settled. A few years later, he removed to Windsor, Connecticut, and thence, in 1659, to Northampton, in Massachusetts. The first task of the founders of this new community was to gather a church, and choose John Strong to be its ruling elder. This was a highly responsible position in the early days and in the little country villages of New England, and its possessor was generally the leading man of the town, second only to the minister in dignity and importance. Respected and respectable John Strong ruled over the Northampton Church for forty years; established a tannery; was honest, frugal, and industrious; and brought up to man's and woman's estate a numerous family. Here, in 1699, as the famous seventeenth century was passing away, with all its great events, into the domain of history, Elder John died at the ripe age of ninety-four. He left nearly one hundred



G. Stuart Pinx.t J.B.Longacre Sc.

CALEB STRONG,

Late Governor of Massachusetts

J.H.Daniels Pr.

and fifty direct descendants, covering three generations, and all his sixteen children survived him. The race, so well started by its founder, has grown and expanded until, at the present day, two large octavo volumes hardly afford sufficient space to register the names of John Strong's descendants. His fifth son, Ebenezer, was the father of six children, of whom the third was a son named Jonathan, who had in his turn no less than seventeen children. The second son of this numerous family was named Caleb, who in course of time married, and, departing from the custom of his ancestors, had only one son. The diminution of numbers seems to have resulted in a development of ability, for this only son was destined to be the most distinguished of his name, and the most famous among the multitude of John Strong's descendants. Caleb Strong, fifth in descent from the old ruling elder, the future Senator and Governor, and the subject of the present memoir, was born at Northampton, Jan. 9, 1745. From the preceding brief outline of his genealogy, it will be seen that he sprang from a pure English stock. His family was one of the most important in his native town and county. His parents are said to have been "distinguished for original strength of mind and sound judgment, as well as for their prudent, pious, and exemplary Christian development." These latter qualities, highly valued throughout New England, had a special significance at Northampton in the middle of the eighteenth century. The minister of the parish at that time was the most famous theologian of New England, a man whose acute and powerful reasoning spread his reputation far beyond the narrow limits of a Massachusetts village, and made his name familiar wherever the English language was spoken and the doctrines of Calvin were cherished. Jonathan Edwards had already "made full proof of his ministry" in Northampton for nearly twenty years at the time of Caleb Strong's birth. In the controversy which soon after ensued between the minister and a portion of his parish concerning

the "Halfway Covenant," Mr. and Mrs. Strong took no active part, but they fully sympathized with their distinguished pastor. The religious influences of Caleb Strong's childhood and youth were, therefore, unusually powerful, and they were not without a marked effect upon his character. Throughout his life he was a devout and religious man, and steadily adhered to the sober and rigid faith of his forefathers. His moderate and gentle disposition, however, and the temper of the times in which he lived, saved him from the sternness and bigotry which have always been the dangers of the creed that he professed.

Mr. and Mrs. Strong were resolved that their only son, upon whom all their hopes were centred, should have the best education that could then be obtained. Young Strong was accordingly placed with the Rev. Samuel Moody, of York, Maine, a noted teacher of the day, by whom he was fitted for college. Mr. Strong entered Harvard in 1760, and graduated in due course in 1764. In these years of study he displayed an exemplary character and marked ability, and profited so well by his opportunities that he received the highest honors at his graduation. As he was travelling homeward from college, he fell a victim to that scourge of the last century, the small-pox, from which he barely escaped with his life, and with his eyesight seriously impaired. From this misfortune he never wholly recovered, but it was at first a peculiarly severe trial to a young, successful, and ambitious scholar, who had just selected the law for his profession. With admirable courage, he determined to persevere in his choice, and the devotion of his family enabled him to prosecute his studies. His father and sisters read to him the few law books from which all legal education was then derived, including Coke upon Littleton, in folio, which must, indeed, have appeared to these affectionate but unprofessional readers, as it did to King James, "like the peace of God, which passeth all understanding." The knowledge thus painfully

acquired was sound and accurate, and the method of study, slow, thorough, and necessitating constant thought, undoubtedly contributed to Mr. Strong's subsequent success at the bar. In advising his son, many years afterwards, as to the value of study, he says: —

"I wish you to be convinced of the importance of improving your time well. Let none of it be wasted in idleness or unprofitable amusement. Some exercise is necessary to your health, — especially, walking some distance every day when the weather and ways are good; but lounging about and hanging over the fences, or sitting a long time in other people's rooms, can have no tendency to promote your health or reputation. If your eyes are fatigued at any time, you may lay aside your book and reflect on what you have read with as much advantage as if you continued reading. In this way I have acquired a principal part of the little knowledge I have."

Arduously and slowly Mr. Strong worked his way through the difficulties which beset his legal studies. His careful reflection and patient thought made him a good lawyer, and his perseverance in adverse circumstances appealed effectively to the members of the profession in his native county, who had recently determined to exclude from their ranks all new aspirants for legal honors. In 1772, Mr. Strong was admitted to the bar. But while, with infinite toil, he had been acquiring the theory of law, he had at the same time been learning its practice under the best auspices. In the office of Joseph Hawley, the leading patriot of Western Massachusetts, Mr. Strong studied not only law, but politics as well. It was a good school for both.* "We must fight," said Hawley, before even the few

* It has been alleged by high authority (Proceedings of Mass. Hist. Soc., 1876–77, p. 397) that Mr. Strong was one of those who signed the Complimentary Address of the Barristers and Attorneys to Governor Hutchinson, on his departure. Many men, who afterward espoused the cause of the Revolution, signed this document; but, without the fullest and most convincing proof, I find it difficult to believe that Caleb Strong was among them. Such an act would have been at variance with all we know of his principles at that time, with the influences by which he was surrounded, and with his whole subsequent career.

who were of that opinion had dared to express their thoughts. With such a friend and mentor, Mr. Strong ranged himself at an early day upon the patriotic side. Law and politics went hand in hand. He entered the bar in 1772, and the same year was chosen a Selectman of his native town. At the very outset of his career, his moderate disposition and quiet manners commended him to the confidence and the good-will of his fellow-men, and with this election to the highest post in his native village began a long career of public service. The qualities which enabled Mr. Strong to hold office for nearly half a century were evidently conspicuous at the very beginning of his active life. In 1774, he was chosen, together with Hawley, to represent Northampton in the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. At the same time, he became a member of the Northampton Committee of Safety, a position which he continued to hold during the war. He here rendered efficient service to the cause of the Revolution, although his weakened eyesight prevented him from serving his country in the field. Despite the troubled times, Mr. Strong appears to have rapidly gained professional reputation, and, in 1776,

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His name does not appear in Curwen's list (Curwen's Journal, ed. 1842, pp. 428, 429), nor in the lists printed in the newspapers of the day (see Boston Post-Boy, May 30 and June 6, and Boston News-Letter, June 2, 1774, which contain all the lists mentioned by Governor Hutchinson in his History, III. 459), and the authority for its insertion in the revised list is not given by Mr. Ames in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society. John Adams (Works, X. 38) says that Mr. Strong's name is appended to an Address to General Gage. This is even more improbable than in the case of Hutchinson. Mr. Strong's name is not in the list of those who addressed Gage on his arrival. (See News-Letter, June 9, 1774.) Gage, however, received (Oct. 6 and 7, 1775) two Addresses on his departure, — one from the loyalists of Boston, the other from those of the country. There was none from the bar, as is stated by John Adams. In neither of these lists does the name of Caleb Strong occur. (See Essex Gazette, Oct. 26, 1775.) That the pupil and colleague of Hawley should have signed an Address to Hutchinson is unlikely enough; but it is absolutely incredible that a member of the Provincial Congress and of the Northampton Committee of Safety, universally trusted and respected, should have been guilty of such stupid duplicity and folly as to sign an Address to Gage in 1775, after war had actually begun.

he was appointed County Attorney, an office which he filled acceptably for twenty-four years. He rose in political life even more rapidly, being chosen to represent Northampton in the Convention of 1779, which framed the Constitution of Massachusetts. Large as this Convention was, it was no slight honor to be numbered among its members. All that Massachusetts could boast of ability and worth was gathered at Boston, in September, 1779, to draw a new charter for the old colony. Here were assembled all the distinguished men of the State. The old leaders to whose lot it had fallen to pull down, the young whose destiny was to build up, met under the same roof. The old spirit of revolution and independence, and the younger spirit of order, which plucked safety and good government from the convulsions of civil war, united to give a constitution to the Puritan State. Although a young man, Mr. Strong received the high compliment of being chosen one of the four members at large on the Committee appointed to draft the Constitution. Mr. Strong obtained two hundred and three out of two hundred and thirty-seven votes, only six less than the number given to the great popular leader, Samuel Adams. Besides being a member of this Committee, to whom the principal labor of the Convention was entrusted, Mr. Strong served on several sub-committees for the consideration of particular articles. That his services in the Convention were acceptable, and added greatly to his reputation, is shown by the many offices which were now thrown open to him. In 1780, he was a member of the Council of Massachusetts which, until the new Constitution went into operation, wielded the whole executive power of the State. In the same year, he declined an election as delegate to the Continental Congress, and accepted the office of State Senator, which he held until 1789. In 1783, he declined an appointment to the Supreme Bench, as his fortune was too narrow to permit such a loss of professional income as an acceptance of this office would have entailed.

In 1787, he was chosen to the responsible office of delegate to the National Convention at Philadelphia, and was associated by Massachusetts with Rufus King, Elbridge Gerry, and Nathaniel Gorham in the great work of founding a national government. Mr. Strong took his seat in the Convention on May 28, and shared in the labors and debates of the Convention until August, when he was called home by illness in his family. He appears to have been deeply impressed, as all thoughtful men then were, by the absolute necessity of a stronger central government and more perfect union of the States. There is no trace of sectional feeling or of State rights in his course at this trying time, but he carried with him into the Convention the doctrines of government in which he had been nurtured, and the democratic principles of the Constitution found in him a consistent advocate. He supported the traditional New England system of annual elections of representatives, and opposed the distinction of rank between the House and Senate, which had been urged by Gouverneur Morris as of the last necessity. He thought it best that the two Houses should stand upon an equal footing in their mode of election and in the popular esteem. Mr. Strong showed his liberal and conciliatory disposition, as well as his ardent desire for union, even at some sacrifice of power, by sustaining the compromise which gave to the States the right of representation as such in the Senate. Although a representative of a large State, he was ready to make concessions to the smaller ones.

"It is agreed," he said, "on all hands, that Congress is nearly at an end. If no accommodation takes place, the Union itself must soon be dissolved. It has been suggested that, if we cannot come to any general agreement, the principal States may form and recommend a scheme of government. But will the small States, in that case, ever accede to it? Is it probable the large States themselves will, under such circumstances, embrace and ratify it? I think the small States have made a considerable concession in the article of money

bills, and that they might naturally expect some concessions on the other side." *

With sound common and legal sense, Mr. Strong opposed the Virginia plan of making the Judges members of a Council to revise the laws. He saw clearly the importance of separating entirely the great departments of government, and was especially averse to any scheme which allowed the expounders of the laws to take part in making them. He also opposed the plan of the Electoral College, and favored a choice of President by the Legislature, as the simplest method attainable. With true New England thrift, he argued in favor of low salaries; and, mindful of Massachusetts history, introduced an amendment, afterward embodied in the Constitution, by which the Senate was deprived of the power of originating money bills. Soon after this, he was called away from Philadelphia, and thus lost the opportunity of affixing his name to the Constitution. But, although deprived of this honor, he was able to render yeoman's service to the cause of a more perfect union by defending and explaining the Constitution in the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, to which he was presently chosen.

The submission of the Constitution to the people of the various States called national parties into existence. In all the States they sprang up and struggled fiercely over the great issue so suddenly presented. The contest in Massachusetts was peculiarly bitter, and for a long time the result was doubtful. Local causes contributed to swell the ranks of the opposition; but the Federalists, though outnumbered at the start, never faltered, and, by weight of ability, by some adroit management, and by a good deal of work outside of the Convention, were finally successful by a narrow majority. In the party which rallied about the Constitution in Massachusetts, in 1788, Caleb Strong held a prominent place.

* Madison Papers, p. 1101.

Not only from his devotion to the cause of establishing a national government, but from his legal and political reputation, and, above all, from his having been one of the framers of the Constitution, he was looked up to and acknowledged as a leader. Mr. Strong spoke frequently in debate, and with especial force on the clause giving power to Congress to regulate elections. The limits of this memoir forbid any extracts from his speeches, which are all marked by clearness and force. They are simple and admirable expositions of the various questions of government, expressed, as he himself said of the Constitution, "in the plain common language of mankind." The moderate temper and good sense of the speaker are everywhere apparent, and his power of conciliation and quiet knowledge of character are shown when he addresses John Hancock. Like most of his party, he makes full use of the foibles of that eminent individual, and gracefully assures His Excellency that the latter's amendments would soothe jarring factions, and no doubt be adopted by the new government, if recommended by the Convention.

The labors of the Federalists met with their reward. The Constitution was adopted. A national government was established. A new era began. But only the first step had been taken. The scheme on parchment had to be converted into a living active organism. The Federalists, therefore, made every exertion to commit the great experiment to tried and friendly hands, and their efforts, in New England especially, were covered with success. For her first Senators, Massachusetts selected Caleb Strong and Tristram Dalton. "Our Senators," wrote General Lincoln to Washington, who was anxiously watching the result of the elections, "our Senators are Federal indeed." * Mr. Strong, unlike most of his colleagues, was in his seat on March 4, 1789, and, in drawing lots, obtained the second class, which entitled him to a term

* Writings of Washington, IX. 468.

of four years. At the expiration of that period, he was re-elected, but resigned three years later. Mr. Strong was an active and useful member of the Senate. He appears to have been recognized as one of the leading lawyers in that body, and most of the committees on which he served were those whose duties would now be assigned to the Judiciary Committee. His most important service was on the committee which drafted the famous Act to establish the judiciary, which passed at the first session, and which has had an importance and an effect equal to almost any measure ever enacted by Congress. Many of his subsequent labors were connected with subsidiary questions growing out of this first act, such as regulating processes, paying the judiciary, and the like. He was chairman of the committee on patents; and, in 1790, served on the one appointed to determine a rule for naturalization. But, besides the more purely legal committees, he held a conspicuous place on those formed for other equally important purposes. In May, 1790, he was chairman of the committee on foreign intercourse; and, in the debate on this question in the following year, while he favored the prompt determination of the question of permanent establishments abroad, he expressed strong doubts of their necessity or expediency. He also served upon the consular and post-office committees, and on one for pensions. That he displayed some talent for finance is shown by the appearance of his name on some of the finance committees, and by the fact that, in 1791, he was selected to report to the Senate Hamilton's plan for a national bank. Throughout his senatorial career, Mr. Strong was constant in his attendance and in his devotion to his duties. It is hardly necessary to say that he acted always with the Federalists, and was one of the most consistent and unchanging members of that party. He sympathized profoundly with the distrust of France which gradually became a leading article in the Federalist creed; and, as early as June, 1792, we find his name among the small

minority who voted for the modified resolution acknowledging the reception of the French Constitution. Again, in 1795, he strongly supported the motion of his colleague, Mr. Cabot, to strike out the words "magnanimous nation" from the resolution accepting the French flag. Mr. Strong shared fully in the disgust excited at that time by the French policy; and, if he could have had his way, would have separated the reception of the flag from that accorded to the letter of the French government. He, of course, advocated the ratification of the Jay treaty, and earnestly supported the policy of Washington, so bitterly denounced at this critical time. Although the people expected a better treaty, he thought that, like himself, they were convinced that the best had been done, and that it was our duty to abide by it.*

Soon after the exciting struggle of the following session, produced by the resistance in the House to the appropriations for the English treaty, Mr. Strong, wearied of public life, and abundantly satisfied with his share of it, resigned the Senatorship, and returned to the practice of his profession. During the stormy years of the last Federalist administration, Mr. Strong remained in private life. He, of course, warmly supported the government against the aggressions and insults of France, and, in 1797, he writes to his friend, Colonel Pickering,† to congratulate him heartily upon his vigorous reply to M. Adet. The clamor of the French Minister Mr. Strong regarded as merely noisy misrepresentation; but, as his letters were artfully drawn, and as the people do not stop to analyze such statements, he thought it was always well to have them unsparingly refuted. The letter shows a firm and settled opposition to France, but is free from the unreasoning rancor only too common at that time among extreme Federalists. In the unhappy struggles with the President, which finally ruined

* Strong to Pickering, Aug. 22, 1795. Pickering MSS.
† Feb. 6, 1797. Pickering MSS.

his party, Mr. Strong does not appear to have taken any part, although his sympathies were probably with the opponents of Mr. Adams.

Mr. Strong, on resigning his seat in the Senate, undoubtedly wished and believed his retirement from public life to be final. But so efficient and available a man could not long remain out of office. In 1800, he was brought forward by the Federalists as their candidate for Governor. He easily defeated his competitor, Mr. Gerry, and in Northampton and the six or seven neighboring towns there were no votes cast against him. A stronger proof of the respect in which his character was held, of his amiability and universal popularity, it would be impossible to offer.* Another incident subsequent to this same election, and growing out of it, reveals the secret

* In this same year, 1800, Mr. Strong was elected a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, then recently founded. His election was announced to him by the Secretary of the Society, in the following terms: —

"Boston, Sept. 21, 1800.

"Sir, — I do myself the honor of informing you that you were elected unanimously a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society at their last meeting.

"I waited upon your Excellency. You was not in town, and my wish to present this in person prevented my sending it on to Northampton.

"Be so kind as to excuse the delay, and to accept it as the address of the Society to one who has every claim to their respect and esteem.

"We need not ask your patronage of such an institution. We beg your assistance to our labors in promoting the object, — an accurate account of the state of the country, — and have reason to expect much, could you spare time from the multiplicity of public business, from the exertion of your literary talents.

"We have published six volumes, and with pleasure find it to be the public opinion that the Historical Collections are among the very useful, if not the most splendid, publications. Certainly, many ancient documents, which future historians will say, 'How well worth preserving!' would have been lost, had our Society been less attentive and zealous.

"Should our late vote meet with the approbation and acceptance of your Excellency, let me beg the favor of an answer, to be given to the Society at their meeting the last week in October.

"I am, Sir, with every sentiment of esteem, your most obedient and humble servant,

"John Eliot,
Corresponding Secretary of the Mass. Hist. Society."

of Mr. Strong's success in winning the affection of his fellow-men. When the new Governor was inaugurated, the procession usual on such occasions happened to march through Winter Street in Boston, and, as it passed, the venerable Samuel Adams was seen standing at his door. Mr. Strong immediately halted the procession, descended, uncovered his head, and advanced to shake hands with the old patriot of the Revolution.* It was a graceful act, gracefully performed, and shows clearly the gentle temper which made Mr. Strong's long official life so free from any thing like personal bitterness. But, in order to thoroughly appreciate this little scene, it must be remembered that Mr. Adams was the opposition leader, and that party spirit then ran very high. A like moderation was exhibited by Mr. Strong in his annual address, in 1801, at a time when leading Federalists, in public and private, from the pulpit and from the bench, were denouncing the accession of Jefferson as the victory of the worst principles of the French Revolution, as the advent of a Marat or a Robespierre, fatal alike to religion and society. "You will reflect," said Mr. Strong on this occasion, "that in republics the majority must prevail, and that obedience to the laws and respect for the constitutional authorities are essential to the character of a good citizen." The words and the thought are alike simple and even commonplace, but they were rarely heard from the lips of party leaders in 1801. To this wise and conciliatory spirit, to his great personal popularity, and to his steady refusal to exercise his power for party purposes, Mr. Strong owed his long tenure of office.† This portion of his public life was quiet and uneventful, for at this time there were no issues of importance affecting the State. The Governor strove hard to get some just debts paid by the general Government to Massachusetts, but they were Federalist debts, and

* Life of Samuel Adams, Vol. III. 369.

† George Cabot to Pickering. Life of Cabot, p. 343.

met with small favor at the hands of a Democratic Congress. During these years Mr. Strong wrote frequently to Colonel Pickering, then Senator from Massachusetts, but his letters are curiously devoid of politics. He tells his restless correspondent of the weather and the crops, and of the risings and sittings of the Legislature and of their actions, but he leaves national questions alone; and there is no evidence that he had any knowledge of the Federalist plot to dissolve the Union, which was concocted in Washington in 1804. In a letter written in 1806 he gives an interesting picture of the state of parties at that time, and he expresses feelings which show that the now prevalent distrust of legislative bodies is of old date, and was familiar in 1806 to one who had had a large experience of them. Mr. Strong says: —

"Few important laws of a public nature have been passed; but, if they have done but little good, I think they have not done any great mischief, and this in a legislative body seems to be a character of considerable merit. In general, the two Houses have been uncommonly tranquil and good-humored, and I am told that but little of party spirit has appeared in either of them."

The good humor and the tranquillity mentioned by the Governor were signs of the decay of the two old parties, and indicated the rapid process of absorption by which the Federalist power was being destroyed, even in its strongholds. Nothing but Mr. Strong's popularity retained the State government for the Federalists after 1804, when Massachusetts chose Jeffersonian electors. In 1807, this, too, proved unavailing, and Mr. Strong, after seven years of service, was defeated by Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Strong gladly retired to private life, convinced for the second time that his public career was at an end. But the wretched foreign policy of Mr. Jefferson soon changed the face of affairs, and, by means of the embargo, gave a new lease of life to the expiring Federalist party. As hope revived, they turned to their old

leader as their best candidate, but Mr. Strong declined to stand, and his determination could not be shaken. He felt that he had done his part, and that his refusal was fully justified. He writes to Colonel Pickering that his withdrawal can have no effect upon the result of the election, and that in the Northampton region, where he commanded the greatest strength, there would be no loss, as the county was thoroughly Federalist.* In this same letter he gives his views on the exciting political issues of the day, and notes with interest the reaction produced by the measures of the administration. "An opinion is gaining ground," he writes, "that the conduct of Government is evidently influenced by partiality in favor of the French, and by fear of offending them," and that they are, therefore, determined on a breach with Great Britain. In regard to Pickering's well-known letter to Sullivan, he says that if the Governor had published the letter, it would have had no great effect, as Pickering's opinions were well known, and it "would have been considered an evidence of the Governor's faithfulness and impartiality; but his sending the letter back, *without reading it*, and publishing his answer in the 'Chronicle,' have had no tendency to increase the number of his friends." One may be sure that the writer of this criticism would never have made such a capital mistake, had he been placed in a like position. The whole letter shows Mr. Strong's steady and firm adherence to Federalist opinions and principles, and is characterized also by the quiet good sense with which he regarded every public or private event.

The years glided by, and once more Mr. Strong was forced by a sense of duty to abandon his retirement, and enter upon a new term of official labors and upon the most trying experience of his long and varied public career. In the spring of 1812, war was near, and the government of Massachusetts was in Democratic hands. But the approach of war with

* Strong to Pickering, Aug. 6, 1808. Pickering MSS.

Great Britain roused the deeply rooted dislike of New England to such a policy and to its authors. The Federalists again saw victory within their grasp, but they fully appreciated the dangers which menaced them. They needed a leader who was unexceptionable both in character and antecedents, whose personal popularity was considerable, and whose firmness, calmness of temper, and moderation both in word and deed should satisfy the extreme members of the party, without alarming and driving away the more timid brethren. There was one man, and only one, who fulfilled all these requirements. Everybody turned to Mr. Strong as the proper candidate, and he felt that he could not now, as in 1808, refuse. He accepted the nomination, and was elected. The Democrats, then the party in possession, with all the offices in their hands, with the State most carefully and most infamously "gerrymandered," were swept from power, and Mr. Strong triumphed again over his old adversary, Mr. Gerry. The Democrats, during their brief tenure of government, had introduced a thorough system of political proscription in the matter of the State offices, and the aged Gerry had been urged on in this novel business by his great leader, Thomas Jefferson. The problem of remedying this injustice, and of restoring the old system of permanent tenures, was presented to Mr. Strong as soon as he entered upon his office. The following letter shows the manner in which he dealt with the difficulty: —

"Boston, June 20th, 1812.

"My dear Lewis, — . . . The Sheriff, clerks, and others who were ejected last year for their opinions, and who wished to be restored, have been reinstated in their offices. In one instance, a Sheriff who had been removed had died; and in two instances of removal, the former incumbent was otherwise provided for, so as not to desire a restoration. In those cases, the present incumbent has not been disturbed. We contemplate no other removals, unless sufficient cause is shown and proved, and the party accused is heard in his defence.

"Caleb Strong."

The wisdom of Mr. Strong's course shines out brightly against the dark background of his predecessor's blunders.

This matter of the offices, however, was the very least of the difficulties with which Governor Strong had to cope. War was declared June 18. Six days before, Governor Strong had received a request from the Secretary of War to order into the national service a portion of the militia, to be under the command of Major-General Dearborn. On the 22d of June, the day before the news of the declaration of war was received in Boston, General Dearborn made a formal requisition for these troops, to be stationed under his command at different points along the coast. Governor Strong's position was a trying one. The opposition to the war was very general. There was a violent war party, who wished all the resources of the State to be placed at the disposal of the national government; there was a peace party, composed of members of both parties, determined to put every obstacle in the way of the administration; while the Federalists generally regarded the declaration of war as an act of tyranny, and the measures of the dominant party as an infringement of State rights. Another and a very grave difficulty of a practical nature arose from the extreme reluctance of the militia to serve, and from their hatred, amounting almost to insubordination, to being placed under the authority of United States officers.* General Dearborn's requisition raised two questions of the deepest importance. The Constitution says that "Congress shall have power to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions," and "to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively the appointment of the officers."

* See Sumner's History of East Boston, p. 399, and manuscript letter from Governor Strong to the Commissioners of Massachusetts appointed in accordance with the resolves of the Hartford Convention, Jan. 31, 1815.

The first question was who was to judge whether one of the three exigencies in which Congress had power to call out the militia had arisen; the second, was whether the militia could, according to the Constitution, be placed under the command of a United States officer. After mature consideration, and from sincere conviction, Mr. Strong decided that he, as Governor of the State, was the proper person to determine whether the constitutional exigency had arisen, and he was also of opinion that the militia must be commanded by their own officers. He made no reply, therefore, to General Dearborn's requisition, but referred the matter to the Council, who reported that the exigency required by the Constitution had not arisen, and advised a submission of the constitutional points to the Supreme Court. This was immediately done, and Chief-Justice Parsons, Judge Parker, and Judge Sewall returned an opinion which fully sustained the views of the Governor. On the 26th of June, General Dearborn made a second requisition, to which Mr. Strong replied, declining to furnish the troops; and, a few days later, he refused to comply with a request from the Secretary of War, urging him to give troops to General Dearborn. But, although he was so jealous of his constitutional rights, Governor Strong was resolved to ensure the complete protection of the State. On the 3d of July, he issued a general order, requiring the militia to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice to any threatened point. Not only did he mean to defend the State, but also to comply with every demand of the national government which he considered constitutional. This is shown by his detaching militia, and placing them under the command of General Dearborn, on the 5th of August, to march to the defence of the eastern portion of the State. In doing this, he felt that he went to the utmost limit of his constitutional obligations, and it proves that he did not seek to thwart the national government from sheer partisanship. The following letter to his son explains his course at this time: —

"BOSTON, August 15th, 1812.

"MY DEAR LEWIS, — I received your letter of the 13th instant yesterday. In my general order I find there was nothing said of the President's command; but in the instructions given to General Sewall, and which, of course, would be communicated to the commander of the militia that are called out, he is directed to have two companies stationed at Eastport, and one at Robbinston, until the President shall otherwise direct, — and in my letter to the Secretary of War I informed him that such directions had been given, — so that they are to be under the command of the President, as was stated would be the case, whenever the militia should march to repel an invasion, in the General Order of July 3d. There was some difficulty in bringing the case within the exigencies mentioned in the Constitution, but I stated that that part of the State was in a peculiar manner in danger of invasion, which was saying as much as I could with truth.

"You inquire whether the opinion of the Supreme Court is to be published. I don't know that I shall have any fit opportunity of doing it until the Legislature meet in October. Perhaps then it will be proper to lay the whole matter before them, as well the opinion as my correspondence on the subject of calling out the militia; but this may depend on the events that may take place between this time and that."

In his message to the Legislature, Mr. Strong said: —

"If this State was in danger, the regular troops would not have been ordered away to the north-west frontiers; and, if they were so ordered, the militia were not liable to be called into service, and stationed in the forts of the United States to do duty, when no danger of invasion appeared. I have been fully disposed to comply with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, and I sincerely regret that a request should have been made by an officer of the national government with which I could not constitutionally comply. But it appeared to me that this requisition was of that character, and I was under the same obligation to maintain the rights of the State as to support the Constitution of the United States." *

* See also Governor Strong's Message, in Massachusetts Resolves, for May 28, 1813, where he reviews his course since the beginning of the war.

This sentence sums up the whole policy of the Governor during the trying years which followed. If Mr. Strong's political principles be considered, as well as the state of the times and the party to which he belonged, his course appears both temperate and just. Had he complied with the requisitions of General Dearborn, and accepted the Democratic interpretation of the Constitution, he would have been, if not more than man, something considerably less than a Federalist. As to Mr. Strong's views of the two constitutional questions he had to decide, whatever may be thought of their merits, it must not be forgotten that these points had not then been judicially determined. The Governor of Massachusetts was as competent as the President to decide a doubtful constitutional point. In doing so, moreover, he was supported by the majority in Massachusetts, by his constitutional advisers, and by the opinion of his Supreme Court. The legality and caution of his action cannot be questioned. If we cannot acquit three learned lawyers, members of the highest tribunal of the State, of undue partisanship in taking so extraordinary a view of the Constitution as they did upon the first point referred to them, we must, at least, admit that the Governor was legally, if not politically, justified in the course which he adopted.

Mr. Adams, in his Diary,* says that Governor Brooks, the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts in 1812, told him that Governor Strong was completely under the influence of Chief-Justice Parsons. The Governor almost quarrelled, Mr. Brooks said, with him on this account; and he added that it was he who finally forced the Governor to issue the General Order calling out the militia. Mr. Adams professes himself puzzled by this statement, as well he might be, for Governor Strong's course was a purely independent one, and his ordering out the militia came near causing a serious breach with the Chief-

* Diary of John Quincy Adams, Vol. IV. p. 423.

Justice.* Yet he adhered constantly to his determination to retain the militia under his own control, until in his judgment an exigency should arise warranting his ordering them into the service of the United States.

Throughout the war, Governor Strong steadily pursued this policy. When, in the spring of 1814, the British swooped down upon the coast left undefended by the national government, and the alarm of war spread along the shores of New England, Governor Strong put himself at the head of the vigorous movements made by the people to repel the enemy. The militia was called out, volunteers came forward to offer their services, and substantial fortifications were raised for the protection of Boston. Mr. Strong gives, in the following letter, a brief account of the situation: —

"BOSTON, Sunday Evening, Sept. 4th, 1814.

"MY DEAR LEWIS, — . . . You will also see in the newspapers that the British have taken possession of Castine and Belfast with a considerable land force, but we have no particulars, and I have no official account of the proceedings there. The people in this town are in as great agitation, I think, as at any time in the Revolutionary War; and, while this state of things continues, I must remain here, however little good I may be able to do them, though if I can help to make them cool and collected, I shall think myself not wholly useless.† CALEB STRONG."

The danger of foreign invasion, the irritation produced by the war, and the weak yet aggravating policy of the national government produced in the autumn of 1814 the agitation and excitement which resulted in the Hartford Convention.

This measure had the sympathy and approval of the Governor, who, from his situation, was even more deeply impressed than others by the dangers which menaced both

* A full account of Mr. Strong's interview with Judge Parsons on this point may be found in Sumner's History of East Boston, p. 738.

† See also Sumner's History of East Boston, 401–420, for a detailed account of the defensive measures taken at this time.

State and country, and who felt the necessity of forcing a peace at all hazards. He thought, moreover, that we had no right, considering our ill success in the war, to expect good terms from England, and he writes to Pickering that he can see no reason for indignation at the first terms offered by England at Ghent.* "If Great Britain," he says, "had discovered a haughty or grasping spirit, it might naturally have excited irritation, but I am persuaded that in the present case there is not a member of Congress who, if he was a member of Parliament, would have thought that more moderate terms ought in the first instance to have been offered." This was a sentiment which, at that juncture, was likely to prove more true than palatable. Mr. Strong also remarks that pride, the enemy of peace and justice, had caused the war and might prevent peace; and that, if Mr. Gore and Mr. King had been commissioners, they would, without difficulty, have made a fair treaty. On the following day he writes that he finds the Essex people expect to lose the fisheries, but are ready to give up a portion of Maine to retain them, which shows clearly that peace was the event most desired by the Federalists. In December,† he wrote that the arguments of the American Commissioners displayed ability, but lacked candor and frankness, and he wished that "they had not so much encouraged the language, which is already too frequent, that, if we agree to any terms which are not perfectly agreeable, we shall give up our independence." His views as to the condition and future of the West were those held by many of the Federalists, and are not without interest. He wrote to Colonel Pickering in February, 1815,‡ that the news made it evident that New Orleans would not be taken, and that its capture would have hastened the separation of the Western from the Atlantic States.

* Strong to Pickering, Oct. 17, 1814. Pickering MSS.
† Strong to Pickering, Dec. 15, 1814. Pickering MSS.
‡ Strong to Pickering, Feb. 7, 1815. Pickering MSS.

"However," he adds, "it is hardly to be supposed that the Western States will long continue connected with us. They will soon possess all the requisites for their complete security, and will naturally prefer a government of their own and among themselves to one at a great distance. The territory of the United States is so extensive as to forbid us to indulge the expectation that we shall remain many years united. But whenever a separation shall take place, I hope it will be effected, not only without contention, but with perfect good-will. We may be happy as neighbors, where a union would be inconvenient."

As may be supposed, Governor Strong was one of those who rejoiced most sincerely at the return of peace. He longed for definite news of the conclusion of the treaty in season for him to decline to stand again as candidate; for, while the war lasted, he felt obliged to remain in office.* The treaty did not arrive in time to release him, he was re-elected once more, and held the office until 1816, when he took his final leave of public life.

At last the peace and retirement which Mr. Strong so much desired, and which he so well deserved, had come to him, but they were destined to be rudely broken and to be of short duration. In 1817, his wife, a woman of most attractive character, the daughter of the Rev. John Hooker, the successor of Edwards, to whom he had been married in 1777, and whom he tenderly loved, died after a lingering illness. Mr. Strong did not long survive this severe blow, although he bore it with patient resignation. On Nov. 7, 1819, he died at his house in Northampton, painlessly and almost instantaneously, from an attack of *angina pectoris*.

Mr. Strong's long and varied public services have left but little space to speak of his personal appearance and private character. He was tall and of moderate fulness of person.† He had a rather long oval face, which in Stuart's portrait has

* MS. letter, Caleb Strong to Lewis Strong.

† Sullivan's Familiar Letters, p. 369.

a gentle and pleasant yet firm expression. His manners were kindly and agreeable, but marked rather by the simplicity of one bred in the country than by the polish of a man who had mixed much with the world. In his domestic relations and in private life Mr. Strong was both loved and respected. A long series of letters addressed to his son Lewis, when the latter was at school and college, give a most interesting picture of the writer's mind and character. They are marked by strong good sense, are both wise and kindly, and occasionally exhibit a spirit of sober and gentle satire, evincing always a more than common penetration and a cool judgment of human character and feelings. This parental advice is tinged with a Puritan sombreness of thought, and the traditional New England suspicion of every thing pertaining to the pleasant side of life crops out here and there in a manner which seems strange enough at the present day. A few extracts from these letters will not be out of place, as they shed much light on the character of the writer, while at the same time they illustrate modes of thought and habits of life now utterly extinct.

"NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 9, '99.

"MY DEAR LEWIS, —. . . You have entered upon a new scene, and are at a distance from those to whom your interest and happiness are most dear, but I hope you will always be solicitous to preserve your innocence and virtue, and to acquire improvement and a good reputation. Your future success in life depends very much upon the manner in which you employ the time at college. Indeed, this may be called the spring and seed time of your life, and your future harvest will be in proportion to your industry at this period. We are told that the sluggard who does not plough shall be at the harvest and have nothing. If you waste your time in playing cards, or other idle and disgraceful amusements, or in lolling in your chair, you will have the character of a poor scholar, and be despised by every one, but I hope better things of you, and flatter myself you have understanding enough to discover the value of a public education, and the importance of a close application to your studies. . . .

"I am your affectionate parent, CALEB STRONG."

The next letter was written after the death of a little daughter. It shows the strong religious feelings of the writer, and displays also that curious mixture of tenderness and stoicism so frequently met with in the Puritan character.

"NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 11, 1799.

"MY DEAR LEWIS,—. . . You will readily suppose that we are all of us overwhelmed with grief at this event. Indeed, the manners of Phebe were so sprightly and engaging, and her tongue so mild and gentle, and her disposition so affectionate and benevolent, that all of her acquaintances were fond of her. She was peculiarly dear to every one of the family, and the neighbors who knew her were every day speaking in her commendation; but, like a flower, she is cut down and withered. I hope her death will serve to convince us of the uncertainty of earthly enjoyments, and the necessity of securing the friendship of that Almighty Being who alone can support us when, like Phebe, we shall experience the agonies of death.

"I wish it might have happened so that you had been here, that we might have shared together our sorrow, but we must acquiesce in all the dispensations of heaven, and I pray God that you and all of us may derive lasting benefit from this distressing bereavement.

"I am your affectionate parent, CALEB STRONG."

"NORTHAMPTON, Nov. 14th, 1799.

"MY DEAR LEWIS,—. . . I write only for the purpose of giving you information of our welfare, and of reminding you that it is of great importance to you to be diligent in your studies, and that you avoid every evil consequence. I heard of your being at the play soon after you arrived at Cambridge. It will not be advantageous to you to attend those amusements often. It would endanger your health, after spending three or four hours in such a warm place as a play-house, to walk in the cold air as far as Cambridge; and, besides, going frequently to such places of amusement would divert you too much from the business you are to pursue at college. I hope that you will conduct with prudence in all respects, and that you will acquire the character of a good scholar and a person of engaging and amiable manners."

"Boston, March 5, 1803.

"My dear Lewis,—. . . The dress of a scholar near the close of his term at college should be a little more elegant than is necessary at an earlier period. He must then have somewhat the appearance of a gentleman. When you was here, I thought your dress was hardly elegant enough. The coats that are cut straight down before may perhaps be called buckish, but, so far as I have observed, they are not worn by genteel people. If you want new clothes, you must go to Callender's for them, and get those that are good and durable, and take care to have them made large. If you want a new hat, you must get one. . . .

"I am, my dear Lewis, your affectionate parent,

"Caleb Strong."

Mr. Strong's character is not a difficult one to analyze, and in its simplicity may be found the cause of much of the success which always attended its possessor. Mr. Strong was not a man of brilliant intellectual powers, but he supplemented good natural talents by steady application, by cool judgment, and by the exercise on all occasions of most excellent common sense. He was unswerving in his adherence to all his principles; but, though he was a leader in a very dogmatic party, he always expressed himself temperately, and in a fashion which gave offence to no man. This moderation of temper was conspicuous in every act of his public life. Though he frequently held extreme views, he never pushed them in practice to a dangerous distance. His temperance in word, thought, and action, combined with high character and great amiability, was the secret of his personal popularity, which enabled him to retain high office at periods when, it may be safely said, not one of his party friends could have commanded an election. It is a curious fact that, in all the letters of the time, Governor Strong is never mentioned either with praise or blame, if we except an occasional general expression of respect and confidence. Of course, his conduct as a public man was criticised in newspapers and pamphlets, but rarely with personality. This was most remarkable in an

age when savage party warfare gave birth to the bitterest and most abusive attacks upon private character as well as public actions. Such a complete absence of comment in contemporary writings seems strangely inconsistent with the fact that for nearly half a century Mr. Strong held high places, and was often called upon, especially during his last term, as the executive of the State, to resolve momentous questions. Such questions, too, he never shunned, but decided them with firmness, and adhered unflinchingly to his convictions of duty and to the line of action which he had marked out. This silence on the part of both friends and foes cannot be explained merely by Mr. Strong's moderate temper or amiable disposition. It shows conclusively that he did not possess those salient qualities of mind and heart which must awaken either enthusiastic attachment or deep dislike, and cannot admit indifference. A man of this sober character and even disposition does not deeply impress those about him, nor leave his peculiar personal mark upon history, even though his actions were at the time of great moment, and become afterwards of the highest historical interest. But, on the other hand, such a man, even if he be an aristocrat in principle, secures the great prizes of elective offices in a democracy, and obtains the greatest measure of practical success from his capacity for dealing with his fellow-men, and winning their love and respect, without ever offending their prejudices. Popular and beloved, respected by all, conscientious and painstaking in the discharge of every duty, of a firm and quiet patriotism, Mr. Strong has left an honored and historic name. This memoir cannot close more appropriately than with the words used by Dr. Lyman when he preached Mr. Strong's funeral sermon: "You will unite your voice with mine when I say that few, very few men have sustained public honors more peacefully, and been more eminently useful, through a long life, in times that tried men's souls." H. C. L.

Memoir of Eben. Parsons, Esq.

Eben. Parsons, one of our early members, was a merchant, whose name, in the opening years of this century, was as distinguished in the walks of commerce, as that of his elder brother, the late Chief-Justice, Theophilus Parsons, was at the bar and on the bench. He was the second son of the Rev. Moses Parsons, of Byfield Parish, in Newbury, Essex County, and was born in that town in 1746. He received a good common-school education, and then entered a counting-room in Gloucester; and there, in due time, began business as a merchant, and married, at an early age, Mary Gorham, of that town. At the breaking out of our Revolutionary War, he removed his family to Byfield, while he himself transferred his business to Newburyport, and engaged in privateering, which, says Mr. Lodge, in his "Life and Letters of George Cabot," "the only naval warfare possible to the colonists, was not only patriotic, but profitable to those engaged." He subsequently returned to Gloucester, and, in 1781 or 1782, removed to Boston, where his business speedily enlarged and prospered. He was one of the earliest to send his vessels up the Red Sea, where they took in large cargoes of coffee, which were carried round to Smyrna, and sold there always at a large profit, and often at from three to four times their cost. An intelligent, enterprising, and successful merchant, he became very rich, owned many ships, and conducted a large commerce in the Mediterranean and Baltic Seas. His property, at one time, was estimated at seven hundred thousand dollars, — an immense sum seventy or eighty years ago. He never insured any of his ships or cargoes, preferring, as he used to say, "to stand his own insurer"; and so, when the wars of Napoleon I. and our war with England came, and our commerce suffered so severely, Mr. Parsons suffered with others, and lost a large part of his property. These losses

and his near approach to the allotted age of man had their natural effect upon him. They induced him to retire entirely from business, and remove to Byfield, where, some years before, he had bought a farm contiguous to the parsonage in which he was born. The parsonage and land connected with it he could not buy, and so he contented and amused himself with improving and cultivating as thoroughly as possible the large farm he had been able to secure.

These last years of his life at Byfield were quiet, peaceful, and happy. He had a large, frank, generous disposition, and his hospitalities and kindness were great and constant. He was often visited at Byfield by his old friends from Boston, whom he was always glad to welcome, and retain as long as possible. Among the most valued of them, and who often visited him, was the late President Kirkland, who had been for many years his pastor in Boston, always dining with him on Thanksgiving Day, and keeping up the custom after Mr. Parsons had removed to Byfield. While a resident in Boston, Mr. Parsons lived in Summer Street, where, soon after his removal from Gloucester, he bought a house, with a pasture or large lot of land, containing between two and three acres, adjoining it. He was unwilling to sell or dispose of this estate during his life. It was sold after his death, and the warehouses in Winthrop Place and the neighborhood now cover the spot. Mr. Parsons never entered Boston after he removed from it, though he came as near to it as the upper part of Charlestown Neck, in one or two visits which he made to his son, the late Gorham Parsons, of Brighton. This son, Gorham, was the only one of his family who survived him. He had had two other sons, both of whom bore the name of Byfield, and both died in infancy.

Mr. Parsons never held any public office of any kind. While not deficient in public spirit, he had no political ambition, nor taste for political strife or intrigue. A good citizen, a kind neighbor, a steadfast friend, an honest and honorable

merchant, he devoted himself exclusively to business till he retired from it entirely. After that retirement, he seems to have been averse to business enterprises of any kind. He let nearly all his money remain until his death in the hands of his London bankers, who allowed him three per cent for the use of it; and on these funds he drew as he needed money. He died at Byfield, after a lingering but painless illness, in 1819, intestate.

A venerable lady, now in her fifth score of years, and whose acquaintance with Mr. Eben. Parsons began in 1793–94, thus describes Mr. Parsons's personal appearance and character, she being at the time a member of his son's, Gorham Parsons's, family, whose wife was her aunt. The father and son lived nearly opposite each other, in the lower part of Summer Street, and "the two families dined together at the father's house every Sabbath day, sure of a cordial welcome; while every Monday morning, at half-past eight o'clock, the father appeared at the house of the son, to bestow a kindly morning greeting on each one of the family, and to have the company of his son to their place of business at the North End. Portly-looking men, both of them: the father, the taller of the two, dressed in the fashion of that day, in light drab breeches, with knee-buckles, shining brightly; long, delicate, white stockings; and stout, well-polished shoes, also with buckles; a vest of the same color as the breeches, cut long in Quaker style; and the coat, and overcoat, if needed, were of the same color. A cocked hat and gold-headed cane completed the costume; the son, dressed in a more youthful manner, walking by his side. Uncle Eben.'s hair was perfectly white, combed straight and smooth from his forehead, which was a fine one and free from wrinkles, and brought down his back in a long queue, wound round its full length with a narrow black ribbon, excepting two or three inches at its end, which slightly curled, and which, in my childish days, I privately and mischievously cut off, to the astonishment and

horror of all present. Even he himself was considerably excited; but, on asking me why I did such a thing, and being answered, 'I wanted it put in a pin for me to wear all the time,' I was forgiven; and, strange to say, for forty years past I have worn in that way a little white lock of hair from that head, the pin containing it being given to me by my uncle after his father's and my aunt's death. Estimating the character of Mr. Eben. Parsons with what capability of judgment I may now possess, I should say he was a man of strong character, with strong passions, with much solid good sense. Hasty himself, but forgiving to others. Generous, too, loving to do good and communicate; looking for nothing in return. A warm friend and a kind master; always willing, I have been told, to assist in every thing for the public benefit."

Of the truth of this last remark, his early membership of our Society is a conclusive evidence. S. K. L.

Notice of Rev. William Bentley, D.D.

William Bentley was a son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Paine) Bentley, and was born in Boston, June 22, 1759. He early exhibited a fondness for study, and was fitted for college at the Public Latin School, in his native town, under the immediate eye of his maternal grandfather. Entering Harvard College at the age of fourteen, he graduated in 1777, in the same class with Rufus King, the Rev. Drs. Freeman and Homer, and the Hon. Daniel Kilham, who were afterward associated with him as members of the Historical Society. On leaving college, he was appointed an assistant teacher in the Latin School; and, two years afterward, he was transferred to the North Grammar School, of which he was master for one year. In 1780, he was appointed tutor in Greek and Latin in Harvard College, and he retained this

office until 1783, pursuing at the same time a course of theological study.

In September, 1783, he was ordained as colleague pastor of the Second or East Church, in Salem; and, on the death of the senior minister, the Rev. James Diman, in October, 1788, he became sole minister. This position he held until his own death, which occurred suddenly, from disease of the heart, on the 29th of December, 1819. He had been educated in the theological opinions at that time prevalent in New England; but his doctrinal views gradually changed, and at length he became a decided and avowed Unitarian. As a preacher he does not seem to have held a very high rank, though he delivered the Artillery Election Sermon in 1796, and the Election Sermon in 1807, both of which were printed. He also published several occasional sermons and masonic addresses, and is said to have left more than three thousand discourses, beside other manuscripts. In all his ministerial and parochial duties he was singularly exact and faithful, and the poorer members of his society found in him a generous friend. "No man," said the "Boston Patriot," in an editorial article published two days after his death, "has paid more frequent, more sincere, more candid, or more feeling tributes to the 'illustrious dead' than Dr. Bentley. Forgetting individual opinion, and regardless of what others might think, he kept his course with genuine independence. He was a philosopher, perhaps of the sceptical, but certainly not of the indolent, order. No man was ever more industrious. No divine was ever more fair or more honest. As an inquirer into nature he was patient, inquisitive, zealous, and communicative." The "Salem Gazette" bore equally strong testimony to his industry and fidelity. "His activity and industry in literary pursuits," we are told, "never diverted his attention from his parochial duties. He was the friend, counsellor, and guide of his parishioners, and always enjoyed their warmest attachment and affection. To the poor and unfortunate

he carried not empty professions of sympathy, but he was their active friend and comforter. He daily sought the abodes of misery, of poverty, and of misfortune, and to the extent of his pecuniary means administered to their relief and comfort. His influence, his example, and his most active exertions were devoted to the alleviation of sorrow and suffering."

His scholarship was extensive and accurate. He knew well more than twenty languages, and he had some familiarity with several others. So early as March, 1796, he was chosen a member of the Historical Society; and to the sixth volume of the Collections he contributed the first part of a History of Salem, which was not completed, — it is said, on account of some disagreement with the Rev. Dr. Morse, who was one of the Publishing Committee for the seventh volume. On the incorporation of the American Antiquarian Society, he was chosen a member of its Council; and by his will he left to that Society his cabinet, paintings, and engravings, and a large mass of manuscripts. In 1819, a few months before his death, he received from Harvard College the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In 1794, a few years after the establishment of the "Salem Gazette," Mr. Bentley began to write for it a weekly summary of news, and these articles were continued until 1797, when the paper passed into the hands of a new editor. Subsequently, in 1800, when the first number of the "Salem Register" was issued, he resumed his labors, which were only interrupted by his death, his last article having appeared only a few days previously. "For nearly twenty years," it was stated in an article published in the "Register" on the 1st of January, 1820, "Dr. Bentley has been, without reward, the constant, faithful, and firm friend of our establishment." In politics he was a zealous Republican; and, during the war of 1812, he joined a military company. On the Sunday afternoon when the frigate "Constitution" was chased into

Marblehead by two British frigates, he dismissed his congregation, according to tradition, and marched to that place. On his return, he is said to have preached a sermon from the text, "*There* go the ships!" He had many harmless eccentricities, and he was fond of selecting odd texts, from which he often discoursed on the current topics of the day, in a manner sometimes thought to be irreverent.

Dr. Bentley's reputation was not confined to his own State or country. In 1805, he was offered and declined the Presidency of the University of Virginia; and he was a regular correspondent of Professor Ebeling, of Hamburg, who was much indebted to him for aid in the formation of the large and valuable collection of books and pamphlets relating to America, known as the Ebeling Collection, now in the library of Harvard College. Dr. Bentley was never married; and, by his will, he gave all his classical and theological books and his lexicons, dictionaries, and Bibles to Alleghany College, at Meadville, Pennsylvania. Beside the gift to the Antiquarian Society, he left to his nephew and executor a considerable number of books and manuscripts, which were transferred to that Society in 1866, after the death of the legatee.

C. C. S.

Notice of Hon. Josiah Bartlett, M.D.

Josiah Bartlett, Sen., was a son of George Bartlett, a sea captain, of the parish of Slocum Regis, Devonshire County, England. He came to Charlestown, and married Katherine Whittemore, July 18, 1758. Here their son Josiah, the subject of this notice, was born Aug. 11, 1759.*

He entered Harvard College, but, owing to the confusion of the times, left it to become a student with Dr. Isaac

* The facts in this paragraph are taken from "Charlestown Genealogies and Estates," by Thomas Bellows Wyman, now in the press.

Forster, a respectable physician of Charlestown, who, soon after the 19th of April, 1775, became connected with the medical department of the American army, and, subsequently, was chief surgeon of the General Hospital at Cambridge. He procured for his pupil, then about sixteen years old, the place of surgeon's mate. In this capacity he ministered to the comforts of the soldiers who were wounded at Bunker Hill. Here he first met his eminent friend, Dr. John Warren. "I recollect him," he said, "in the camp, accoutred as a private soldier, and ready, at that eventful crisis, to add another victim to the fame of his family, or to engage in any other duties to meliorate the condition of an infant army." He served with him in the military hospitals. He held the place of surgeon's mate until 1780, when he resigned his commission. He then attended a course of lectures given by Dr. John Warren in the military hospital, located in a pasture in the rear of the present Massachusetts General Hospital. It was "the first course of anatomical lectures in this Commonwealth with dissections and demonstrations."

Dr. Bartlett next served two years as a surgeon in the navy. He continued in the public service through the war of the Revolution. In discharging these duties he manifested "a degree of activity, attention, and faithfulness which secured to him a high reputation and the approbation of his superiors in office." After the war, he settled in Charlestown as a physician, and soon acquired a large practice. He married, April 6, 1783, Elizabeth Call, of this town.

Dr. Bartlett early in life joined the fraternity of Masons, and filled all the posts of honor in the craft up to that of Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. He held this high office repeatedly. He was one of the founders of King Solomon's Lodge of Charlestown. The petition for the charter requests "that our Brother Josiah Bartlett, in whose judgment and integrity we can fully confide, may be constituted our first Master." This was accordingly done;

and, in 1786, when "Warren Hall was opened with appropriate ceremonies," Dr. Bartlett delivered the oration.

In 1793, the Grand Lodge united with King Solomon's Lodge in celebrating with great parade the Festival of St. John the Baptist. Dr. Bartlett then delivered, at the Meeting-house, "A Discourse on the Origin, Progress, and Design of Freemasonry," which was printed.

The petition just named concludes by referring to Warren as "a name dear to Masons, and to be revered by all who wish to walk within compass and to act upon the square." In 1794, Dr. Bartlett was chairman of the committee appointed by the Lodge to erect a monument to the memory of Joseph Warren. He served on this committee, and on the day of the dedication of the monument he delivered at Warren Hall a eulogy on the patriot.

In 1797, Feb. 22, at the request of King Solomon's Lodge, he delivered an address at Warren Hall on the character of Washington. In 1798, he printed an elaborate paper on the subject of Freemasonry, which elicited a sharp letter addressed to him from Hon. Samuel Dexter.

For years he continued in the quiet duties of his profession, enlarging his sphere of usefulness and measure of popularity, and was the chief, if not the only, physician of the town. He took an interest in whatever promoted the prosperity of the place. He served as a member of the School Committee, as one of the Board of Selectmen, and as moderator of the town meetings. He was also a civil magistrate. He engaged in the great enterprise of that day, the building of the Charles River Bridge. He prepared an account of Charlestown, which appeared in the first and second numbers of the "American Recorder," of 1785, a local paper. In 1794, on the 17th of June, he delivered at the Meeting-house an oration, at the request of the Charlestown Artillery Company. This corps were on duty in the Shays Rebellion. The orator said: "We recollect with gratitude your cheerful and

active obedience, with others of our military brethren who are now present, to the serious calls of government." The oration was printed and dedicated "to Major William Calder, with the officers and members of the Charlestown Artillery Company." He was, in 1798, elected a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and, in 1811, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1800, he was elected a Representative, and subsequently was chosen Senator and Counsellor. His position in his native town is indicated by his being selected by the Parish Committee and the Selectmen to deliver the oration on Washington on the day (Feb. 22, 1800) set apart by Congress for the general observance of his death. This oration was printed. This year John Warren, Paul Revere, and Josiah Bartlett, as Past Grand Masters, signed the Address of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to Martha Washington, in which they requested a lock of Washington's hair, to be preserved in a golden urn; and they received the precious memorial, accompanied by a feeling letter from Mrs. Washington.

In 1810, April 12, he delivered an address before the St. Andrews Lodge, at the Old Green Dragon Tavern, in Boston. He was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, and his first official visit was the occasion of this address being delivered. It is printed in Vol. XXXII. of the "Freemason's Monthly Magazine," where it is termed "a chaste and elegant production."

It was, however, to his profession that he gave his largest service. He was a member of the Middlesex Medical Association, served as one of its Counsellors, and delivered before it a discourse on the medical science. In 1789, he was admitted a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, became its Recording Secretary and Counsellor, and continued in its service to the close of his life. In 1790, he attended a course of medical lectures in Cambridge; in 1791, became a Bachelor of Medicine; and, in 1801, received the degree of

M.D. He made communications to these societies and to the "New England Medical Journal."

At the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, June 6, 1810, he read an elaborate address. This was printed in a pamphlet, and is entitled "A Dissertation on the Progress of Medical Science in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." This was revised and enlarged for the first volume of the second series of the Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections. It is here entitled "An Historical Sketch of the Progress of Medical Science in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being the substance of a Discourse read at the annual meeting of the Medical Society, June 6, 1810, with alterations and additions to Jan. 1, 1813." The additions contain important contributions to the history of medical science. In view of his varied labors in this branch of knowledge, Dr. Thacher says: "Perhaps no man contributed more time and active exertion to improve the state of the Society (Massachusetts Medical), and, through it, the interests of medical literature."

Dr. Bartlett was a member of a Reading Society in Charlestown. In 1813, this Society obtained an Act of Incorporation by the name of the "Washington Hall Association," and erected a suitable building for its accommodation. On the day of its dedication, Nov. 16, Dr. Bartlett read a paper, entitled "An Historical Sketch of Charlestown." This he prepared, with copious notes, for the Massachusetts Historical Society, and it was printed (1814) in the second volume of the second series of its Collections. It is the most elaborate of his publications. It was also printed in a pamphlet, and "respectfully inscribed to the citizens of Charlestown, in testimony of the author's gratitude for their various and repeated tokens of confidence and esteem."

Dr. Bartlett was a Vice-President of the Charlestown branch of the Washington Benevolent Society. In 1813, Feb. 22, he delivered before the Society an oration. The

committee who thanked him "for his excellent and appropriate oration" were Jeremiah Evarts, Esq., and Dr. Abraham R. Thompson.

In 1815, he lost his revered friend, Dr. John Warren. He was one of the pall-bearers at the funeral, and was invited by the Grand Lodge to make the eulogy. This was delivered at a quarterly meeting, when the Governor, the high officers of the State, the Selectmen of Boston, and the officers of the societies to which the deceased belonged, were present. It was a finished production. In it he made this personal allusion: "By a connection with the military hospitals, it was my happiness, in early life, to enjoy the friendship of the deceased. His candid attentions were continued in my riper years; and his kindness in periods of domestic sickness and adversity I rejoice publicly to acknowledge with unfeigned gratitude."

Down to the beginning of the present century, the ancient town of Charlestown had but one meeting-house and one church. The Rev. Jedediah Morse, D.D., was the minister. At this time, members of different denominations began to withdraw from the First Parish, and to form new societies; and when those sympathizing with the Unitarian faith separated from the First Church, they were incorporated as "The Second Congregational Church"; then as "The New Church"; and then as "Harvard Church." Dr. Bartlett gave much of his time to the work of organizing this Society. His name stands at the head of the list of original members. He was one of the First Parish Committee in 1816, and served also in this capacity in 1817 and 1818, and he generally presided at the parish meetings. He presented to the Society the christening basin now in use, and was one of the committee who located and built the present house of worship. Thus he was one of the founders of the Harvard Church.*

* The authority for the statements in this paragraph is "Historical Sketches of the Harvard Church, in Charlestown," by Henry H. Edes, now in the press.

Dr. Bartlett's last public service was in 1817, when he was chairman of the committee appointed to welcome President Monroe to Charlestown. He was escorted by a detachment of cavalry from the gate of the Navy Yard to the Square, where, under a civic arch of evergreens, covered with garlands of flowers, he met the Committee of Reception on horseback. The chairman, Hon. Josiah Bartlett, welcomed the President in the following felicitous words: —

"We have the honor, Sir, in behalf of the inhabitants of Charlestown, respectfully to welcome you to this ancient settlement, which has once fallen a sacrifice to freedom, and still retains some vestiges of the Revolutionary War, in which you engaged at an early period of life.

"We cheerfully unite with our countrymen in the expression of esteem and confidence to which your illustrious character and station entitle you; and we rejoice that, whilst your administration has commenced under such auspicious circumstances, we can anticipate its progress with public approbation, and its termination with renown to yourself and prosperity to the nation."

The President replied: —

"It is highly gratifying to me to meet the Committee of Charlestown upon a theatre so interesting to the United States.

"It is impossible to approach Bunker Hill, where the War of the Revolution commenced with so much honor to the nation, without being deeply affected. The blood spilt here roused the whole American people, and united them in a common cause in defence of their rights. That union will never be broken.

"Be pleased to accept my thanks for your kind attention on this interesting occasion."

Dr. Bartlett had a physical constitution which promised a long as well as an active life; but he indorsed the promissory notes of a relative, which it required more than the value of his whole estate to meet. This broke his spirits. His health, in consequence, became impaired. His activity was paralyzed. His desire of life was extinguished. At length, on

the third day of March, 1820, he was struck with apoplexy, which, in two days, terminated his existence.

He was remarkable, Thacher says, "for industry, activity, and intelligence. He never declined any duty which was assigned him, and always executed it speedily and thoroughly; and was, of course, constantly resorted to for difficult services." * His friend and townsman, Thomas Hooper, says: "He was eminent in his profession, skilful in his practice, and his helping hand was always ready and open to aid in public improvements and private charities."

Dr. Bartlett had sixteen children. One of his sons, Josiah, became a physician of Concord, Massachusetts, and was, from 1836 to 1857, a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society. One of his students was the late Dr. Abraham R. Thompson.

The following works were written by him: —

1793. Discourse on the Origin, Progress, and Design of Freemasonry.
1794. Oration on the 17th of June, at the request of the Charlestown Artillery Company.
1797. Address before King Solomon's Lodge, on the Birthday of Washington.
1798. Communication on Freemasonry, in the "Massachusetts Mercury," of September 7.
1800. Oration on the Death of Washington, Feb. 22, 1800.
1808. Case of Calculi in the Bladder of a Boy. Case of Tetanus, from puncture of a Tendon of the Foot: cured by amputation.
1810. Address before the St. Andrew's Lodge, at the old Green Dragon Tavern, in Boston.
1810. A Dissertation on the Progress of Medical Science in Massachusetts.
1813. The Dissertation enlarged, in Massachusetts Historical Collections.
1813. An Historical Sketch of Charlestown. A paper read before the Washington Hall Association.
1814. The Same, with Notes; in second volume of second series of Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections.
1813. Oration before the Charlestown Branch of the Washington Benevolent Society.
1815. Oration occasioned by the Death of John Warren, M.D.

R. F.

* The citations of Dr. Thacher are from his "American Medical Biography." Article: Josiah Bartlett.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, 29th August, 1820, — the members present were, Davis, Dexter, Everett, Holmes, Merrill, Ripley, Savage, Webster, Winthrop, and Winthrop.

The transactions of the last meeting were read.

Communications of letters and donations were made by the Corresponding Secretary.*

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to Dr. Holmes for his great service in preparing the catalogue of the Old South Library.†

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* The following letter, on file, must have been read at this meeting: —

"PLYMOUTH, July 10, 1820.

"SIR, — The commemoration of the completion of the second century since the first permanent settlement of New England, by the Pilgrims, will be celebrated at Plymouth, by the Pilgrim Society, on the 22d of December next, on which interesting occasion an address may be expected from the Hon. Daniel Webster, of Boston. It is a vote of the Trustees 'that the government of the Massachusetts Historical Society be duly notified of these intentions and arrangements of the Pilgrim Society.'

"I have the honor to be, Sir, very respectfully,

"SAMUEL DAVIS,
Corresponding Secretary of the Pilgrim Society.

"Rev. Dr. HOLMES, Corresponding Secretary
of the Massachusetts Historical Society." EDS.

† It will be remembered that, at the annual meeting in 1818 (p. 273), Dr. Holmes informed the Society that they were in possession of a catalogue of the New England Library, and that thereupon he was requested to insert in it a list, by themselves, of the books received from that Library on deposit in the Society's rooms. The catalogue, as received by the Society, was in two parts. It was in the handwriting of Prince himself. One part was entitled, "New English Books and Tracts collected by Thomas Prince, of Boston, N.E."; the other, "New English Pamphlets belonging to Thomas Prince, of Boston." Both parts were found some years before, at the house of the then late Hon. Moses Gill, of Princeton, by Dr. Holmes, to whom they were lent; and, at Dr. Holmes's suggestion, they were subsequently presented to the Society by Moses

ROBERT WALSH, Esq., of Philadelphia, and JOHN VAN NESS YATES, Esq., of Albany, were elected Corresponding Members.

Gill, Esq., the nephew of Lieutenant-Governor Gill. The following correspondence relates to the subject of this catalogue: —

"PRINCETON, May 23, 1815.

"REV. SIR, — My respected and venerable pastor, the Rev. James Murdock, has noticed to me, that from an intimation from you, that the manuscript catalogue of books belonging to the Old South Church, and the list of New England publications made out by the late Rev. Thomas Prince, and which composed a part of the papers left me by my honored uncle, the late Lieutenant-Governor Gill, might be of public benefit if deposited among the archives of the Historical Society, I now, Sir, resign them up to your disposal, with full liberty, if you think proper, as Secretary of the Historical Society, to present them to that very respectable institution.

"With great respect, I am your humble servant, MOSES GILL.

"Rev. ABIEL HOLMES, D.D., Cambridge."

"PRINCETON, May 24, A.D. 1815.

"REV. AND DEAR SIR, — The contents of the preceding page will show you the result of the application to Mr. Gill. I have to add that he very cheerfully complied with the suggestion, and feels himself happy in having an opportunity to gratify your wishes, and to show his respect for the Historical Society. . . .

"With esteem and friendship, yours, JAMES MURDOCK.

"Rev. ABIEL HOLMES, D.D."

"CAMBRIDGE, 31st August, 1815.

"SIR, — At a meeting of the Historical Society, on Tuesday last (which was the first meeting since the receipt of your obliging letter of 23d May), I communicated your letter authorizing me to present to the Society, in your behalf, the manuscript catalogues of Rev. Mr. Prince's collections of New England books and tracts, and declared them to be accordingly presented.

"Whereupon it was voted that the thanks of the Society be presented to you, Sir, for this donation.

"While officially transmitting to you this vote, I avail myself of the opportunity to acknowledge my personal obligations to you for the loan of the manuscripts, and the pleasure I feel in the disposal you have been pleased to make of them, and subscribe myself, Sir, your obliged and very humble servant,

"A. HOLMES, Secretary, &c.

"Mr. MOSES GILL."

It may be added that no minute was made by the Recording Secretary of the presentation of this catalogue, or the vote of thanks referred to in Dr. Holmes's letter.

Agreeably to the vote on the 30th of April, 1818, Dr. Holmes prepared a

M. Carlo Botta was nominated a Corresponding Member by Mr. Everett.

Meeting dissolved.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Oct. 26, 1820, — the members present were, Freeman, Gray, Hale, Lowell, Pierce, Savage, Webster, and T. L. Winthrop.

The transactions of the last meeting were read.

M. CARLO BOTTA was unanimously elected a Corresponding Member.*

Mr. SAVAGE was added to the Committee for publishing the next volume of the Collections.

Meeting dissolved.

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catalogue, on fresh paper, of the books deposited, which he caused to be bound up with the other two parts in Prince's hand; and they together now form one volume, and the outside of the cover is labelled: "Prince's Catalogues of New England Books and Tracts." — EDS.

* Charles Botta was the author of a "History of the War of Independence of the United States of America." It was first published in Italian, under the title, "Storia della guerra dell' indipendenza degli Stati-Uniti d' America. *Parigi: Colas.* 1809. Four volumes in-8." It was translated into English by George Alexander Otis, Esq., and published in Philadelphia, in 1820, in three volumes. Other editions of this translation followed. Botta's history, at the time it was written, and for a long time afterward, was regarded as superior to any other work on the same subject. It was highly commended by Mr. Jefferson. — EDS.